

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

# Basham Press Release

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7800 • Fax: 517-373-9310  
E-mail: [senrbasham@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senrbasham@senate.michigan.gov) • [www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD08](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/SD08)



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CONTACT: Sen. Ray Basham  
517-373-7800

## **Basham Champions \$1.1M to Clean Up River, Protect Greenspace** *Ecorse Creek, Downriver Watershed Receive DEQ Grants*

LANSING—Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) applauds the Department of Environmental Quality's selection of two Downriver projects to receive a total of \$1,163,196 in funding. Both grants are a part of the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Fund, and were announced earlier this month.

"The Detroit River defines our community, and keeping our waters clean and protecting greenspace helps preserve the quality of life that we all enjoy," said Basham. "And a vibrant and healthy environment not only benefits area families, it makes our area a good place to invest and grow, which attracts businesses and employers."

The City of Dearborn Heights will receive \$1,000,000 for the "North Branch of Ecorse Creek Wetland and Greenway Implementation Project." Ecorse Creek is a 27,800-acre watershed tributary to the Detroit River, and the North Branch constitutes over a third of this highly urbanized watershed. The project goals are to reduce flow variability and improve water quality while increasing public education and participation in watershed improvements. This project will create multiple wetland areas and greenways along Ecorse Creek, helping to rejuvenate this important natural resource and improving the quality of life for residents.

Wayne County's Department of Environment, Watershed Management Division, is being awarded \$163,196 for the "Grow Zones Across the Combined Downriver Watershed Project." This project will implement river corridor and low-impact development "best management practices" at sites along the waterways within the Combined Downriver Watershed. The project goals are to reduce nutrient loading and sedimentation into the river through the use of riverside vegetation, which works to naturally prevent soil from being carried into the river during heavy rains, while also improving the riverside landscape.

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